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Three times as many harrings are consumed as any other kind of fish.

There were but twenty-eight foreigners naturalized in Mexico the last fiscal year.

The people of the United States use on an average 12,000,000 postage stamps of all kinds each and every day of the year, or a total of 4,380,000,000 per annum.

A ranchman, who lives on the Williams River, below Holbrook Station, Oregon, has solemnly declared that the carp in the river are destroying his meadows by eating the grass and grubbing up the roots.

Postmaster-General Wilson has issued an order forbidding railroad officials or employes from carrying or delivering letters on which Government stamps have not been affixed.

Electric lighting is to be applied to art in Brussels. On the Anspach Memorial St. Michael is represented on horseback slaying the dragon.

The law against undignified competition in trade has cleared the windows of Berlin shopkeepers of the once familiar placards which told of selling of stock below cost, of damaged goods' sales, etc., which, if they were untrue, laid those displaying them liable to punishment under the law.

About a year ago a Wichita (Kan.) man was a jurymen at the trial of a man accused of counterfeiting. The implements of the counterfeiter were in evidence and the juror examined them closely.

For a long time past it has been a cause of private complaint—where it was not halted with delight—that dancing was going out of fashion in London.

M. de Mahy recently brought forward in the French Chamber of Deputies a proposition to the effect that only Frenchmen should be eligible to office in the French colonies.

The demand for the short sermon is not quite so universal, says an English paper, as some superficial people imagine.

How many bunches, big bunches, of bananas do you think were imported into this country last year? asks the New York Herald.

Between 1880 and 1890 the number of farms in the United States increased from 4,008,907 to 4,564,641, a gain of 555,000.

THE BARRED GATE. Our lives are prisons; we can touch the bars—they are so low! We cannot see the path we tread, An hour before we go.

EPISODE IN CLAIRVOYANCE



It was Mrs. Sherman Blake's afternoon "at home" at 52 Maccolesfield Square, S. W., and that fascinating lady was engaged in a heroic fashion to administer tea and coffee, to remember who took sugar and who did not, and to chat so ably to some half dozen lady friends clustered around her, making occasional bolts toward the door to receive new visitors.

Now, besides the number of lady visitors there had been one man—Captain Le Roy Tassling of the Life Guards. He had been a little while before, but Nettie's thoughts were still all of him in fact, though she had known him but a brief time, this foolish girl, fresh from the schoolroom, had lost her romantic little heart to the handsome soldier, and had accepted him as the ideal man.

Such a little woman as Nettie never breathed to anybody, except, of course, her special girl friend, who didn't count; but she pined to know whether her conviction was right, or whether his calls and attentions were for her mother alone. The talk with Mrs. Rapley at once suggested to her mind a way of satisfying herself on this point.

"I should so much like to see this marvellous thought reader," began Nettie again. "I wonder how I could manage it. Does she live far off?" "She lives in Philadelphia Road, St. John's Wood," replied the other, "but I should advise you, if you think of going, to ask your mother's leave."

"Oh, no, I don't think I want to go really—at least—I might," stammered the girl, "but I'll ask mother. What number did you say?" "Number 43; it's a small provision store," answered Mrs. Rapley, rising to depart; "but probably Mrs. Blake will not let you go. Good-by."

The girl's heart beat faster. "Oh!" she exclaimed, "can't you tell me what he is thinking about, and whether he loves me?" "I don't know," said the other, "but she stopped and merely added 'tell me something about him.'"

easy matter. She first consulted a policeman, but he only repeated "Phillips Road, miss?" in a querulous tone that implied a certain degree of indignation at the notion of any place presuming to exist without his knowledge.

On the day of the dinner party she was more exuberant than ever; and she was dressed and waiting in the drawing room half an hour before anybody else, listening eagerly for the front door bell, and blushing every time she heard footsteps on the stairs.

"Well," thought the Captain, as he drove back to barracks, "I never made a greater mistake than in thinking the little Blake girl a quiet, bread-and-butter sort of creature. By Jove, what eyes she can make, and how she goes on!"

Meanwhile Nettie was having her hair brushed out, feeling jubilant indeed, despite the severe lecture her mother had given her. Somehow, the happiness in her face seemed to be reflected in her maid's, for Barker was positively beaming with satisfaction; and at the same time her thoughts seemed far away, for she repeatedly, in a fit of abstraction, brushed her young mistress's face, which was most painful.

"Barker, what are you thinking of?" remonstrated Nettie, after the third face brushing. For answer, Barker threw down the brush, and announced with tears of joy in her eyes and a happy giggle in her voice: "Oh, Miss Nettie, I'm so excited I hardly know what I'm doing! I'm going to be married! And his name's Tommy Green, and he's so good looking, miss—but stop, I'll show you his photo."

"Oh, I see," said Nettie, greatly relieved, "he directs his letters for him. Can't your soldier write, then?" "Can my soldier write!" exclaimed Barker indignantly. "Why he's most highly educated, miss, far above the common run of soldier servants; and as to writing, he does it so well that sometimes when the Captain's busy he gets Tommy to answer letters for him, like a private secretary. Not important letters, of course, miss; but I mean, for instance, he'll sometimes toss him an invitation and say 'Just accept this for me Green,' or 'Perhaps he is to refuse it, as the case may be, miss; and then, you see—'"

"Yes, yes, Barker; good night. I'm very tired," said Nettie, somewhat abruptly, "and I wish you every happiness."

"Thank you, Miss Nettie; I was just going to tell you it was Tommy as answered Mrs. Blake's last note inviting the Captain."

A New Umbrella. Umbrella making is among the most interesting of industries. Something like 1000 patents have been taken out during the last twenty years.

THE MERRY SIDE OF LIFE.

STORIES THAT ARE TOLD BY THE FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

Longfellow Revised—Bald-Headed—The New Art—It Seemed So to Him—Nothing New, Etc., Etc.

"Try not to pass," the biker said, "As he the other eyes led, 'Unless you want to break your head.'"

HAIRD-HEADED. "Dave, do you know Mr. Baldley?" "Is he the fellow that's troubled with ingrown hair?"—Judge.

UNAVOIDABLY HEAVY. He—"Wonderful how some people weigh every word they say." She—"More wonderful that they don't break the scales."—Judge.

THE NEW ART. Tommy—"Paw, what is a designing villain." Mr. Figg—"Ob, the description would apply to one of these poster artists about as well as anything."

TOO ACROBATIC. "That was tough on Davis." "What?" "He stepped on a banana peel, fell, and was arrested for giving a street performance without a license."—Truth.

IT SEEMED SO TO HIM. Mamma—"I think the baby is growing very fast, don't you?" Papa—"Decidedly. I thought he weighed three pounds more at four o'clock this morning than he did at two."—Truth.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES. Little Clarence—"Pa?" Mr. Callipers—"Well?" Little Clarence—"Which is the more abominable, pa, the man who knows it all or the man who has always heard it before?"

UNDER ANOTHER HEAD. Old Oliver (at the library)—"Where will I find that great anthropological work called, 'Man, the Ruler of the World.'"

A POINT ON SKEPTICISM. Broben—"I'm a good deal of a skeptic!" Craik—"Well, skepticism is dead easy. All a man has to do is refuse to believe whatever he cannot comprehend; and the bigger fool he is, the greater skeptic he becomes."—Pack.

NOTHING NEW. Adorer (nervously)—"Isn't that your father's step on the stairs?" Sweet Girl—"Yes, but don't mind that; it's only a scare. He won't hurt you. He always stamps around that way when he's with young men after eleven o'clock."—New York Weekly.

A NEW WAY OF PUTTING IT. He—"Now, darling, you know how strong is my love for you. Do not say you will be a sister to me." She—"No, George; I will not say so. You—"

HIS EXPERIENCE. Jones—"There is a man with a great deal of faith in human nature." Smith—"I thought that was Kewes, the detective." Jones—"So it is. He has known people who were accused of all sorts of things, but he never could find anything against them."—Pack.

A PROFITABLE INVESTMENT. Cobwigger—"It's no wonder he became a millionaire, for he is the best business man I ever saw." Merritt—"I guess that's so. Before he announced his daughter's engagement to the Count he advanced the fellow enough to settle all his debts at fifty cents on the dollar."—Pack.

RIGHT. Business Man—"Yes; I'm sure it is a useful book. I'm rather sorry I didn't get it some time ago." Canvaser—"Then you'll take a copy?" Business Man—"Oh, no! It's too late now! But if I had it before you called it might have saved both of us a great deal of valuable time."

HIS VIEW. He Urochin—"Say, Mag, did you hear de lady as just went in dere tell de little girl what she has wid her as she could have all she wanted ter eat?"

She Urochin—"Yes." He Urochin—"Well, dat was all a bluff. Dere's two pies left in de window, an' dey're botte gettin' up from de table."—Pack.

Both Robbers. "Now you know the details of the affair," said the doctor to the lawyer a few days later, "what would you advise me to do about it?" "Go back to your practice," replied the lawyer, promptly. "You have no case. Ten dollars, please."

"Now that I have told you the symptoms," said the lawyer to the doctor a few days later, "what would you advise me to do?" "Go back to your practice," replied the physician, promptly. "You have nothing seriously wrong with you. Ten dollars, please."

Thus it happens that two men are calling each other robbers.—Chicago Post.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Over 500,000 species of animals have been described by naturalists up to the present date.

The new British army magazine rifle will throw a bullet to a distance of over 4000 yards.

The law in England now compels every case of lead poisoning to be reported at once to the authorities.

A recently opened guano cave in Georgia was found to be inhabited by great swarms of white flies having yellow legs and pale pink eyes.

It is said that a woman's voice can be heard in a balloon at a height of two miles, while a man's voice cannot be heard at a greater height than one mile.

Lawson Tait, the well known Birmingham doctor, has designed an instrument whereby the electric current is applied for the surgical arrest of bleeding.

The fifty-six largest towns of Austria have an aggregate population of 5,536,000. The death rate in 1895 varied from 1.22 per cent. at Weisberg to 3.67 per cent. at Teschoo.

The wearing of corsets has been prohibited in the electrical department of a California High School. The steels were found to have an effect on the instruments, and in consequence delicate experiments were found impossible.

President Octave Chanute, of the American Society of Civil Engineers, has offered a special prize of \$100 for the best monograph on the kite, giving a full theory of its mechanics and stability, with quantitative computations appended.

It has been discovered after numerous experiments that a dark hair is much stronger than a light one. One dark hair can carry a weight of 113 grammes, while a light colored hair will break at a weight of 75 grammes as hung from it.

A trial of what is known in electrical science as "the third rail system" was made recently near Boston, with the result that an open electric car, in the teeth of a breeze blowing fifteen miles an hour, ran several miles at the rate of eighty miles an hour.

The Proctor Memorial Association contemplate erecting an international observatory on San Miguel Mountain, California, with a telescope constructed on a new principle, with a magnifying power four times greater than the new Yerkes lens recently set up in Chicago or the 36-inch lens in the famous Lick observatory. The lens is to be built on the sectional plan, the invention of Louis Gathmann, of Chicago. The site for the observatory has been donated by Mr. Isham.

New Way to Light Fires. This inventor may not get a monument in this generation, but in years to come the new women will be called upon to subscribe the money that will in enduring bronze commemorate the virtues of the man who removed from their husbands' lives the great bug-bear of making a fire in the cold range or the chilly or draughty grate, says the New York Journal.

The new freighting fan does away with the treacherous kindling that gayly burns out and leaves no impression upon the stubborn coal.

It is a simple mechanical contrivance this "fan," shaped as its name. It fits close to the stove front or the grate. Within its sheet-iron walls is a main spring and clock wheels to work it. It is wound up by turning a handle at the side and set going or stopped by a lever.

When the apparatus is to be used a small quantity of paraffine oil is poured into a cavity in the blow pipe, which is filled with asbestos fibers. When the fiber is thoroughly soaked a light is applied, and the fan set to going, thus forcing from the outlet which quickly spreads through and thoroughly ignites the coal with which the grate has already been filled. The machine is also used for blowing up a dead fire, the spring being wound up, and the fan set in motion for from three to ten minutes.

Japs Are Fond of a Joke. The skill of a Japanese juggler is illustrated by a recent incident at a Japanese dinner, where one of them was employed to entertain the company. A foreign guest determined to have no optical delusions about what the juggler did.

However let his glances be distracted, and was not once off his guard. Noticing this, the old juggler played to him entirely. An immense porcelain vase was brought in and set in the middle of the room, and the juggler, crawling up, let himself down into it slowly.

The skeptic then sat for half an hour without taking his eyes from the vase, which he had first been convinced was sound and firm and stood on no trap door.

After this prolonged watch, the rest of the company assailed him with laughter and jeers, and pointed to his side, where the old juggler was seated fanning himself, and had been so seated for some minutes.—London Tit-Bits.

The Palestine Railway. It is proposed to extend the railway between Jerusalem and Jaffa to Port Said, a distance of about 220 miles from the former city. This would admit of tourists now passing through the Suez Canal visiting the early scenes of the Christian religion without delay.

THE MAN FOR HER.

"Some girls ask for men who are wealthy," A maid who was sensible said, "And some want men who are handsome, While others prefer them well-bred."

"There is Kate, wants a man who's an artist, And she sighs for one who can write— Write sonnets concerning her beauty, To fill the wide world with delight."

"Fair Eunice would marry an actor, A little sweet Alice prefers; An athlete alone may ever claim her, The gentle Geraldine avers."

"Fair Frances declares that she never Will marry unless she is wooed! By a man who regards as abhorrent The silly and stammering dude."

"A statesman for Grace, while Georgiana Upon the milldam does— As for me, well, all that I want is A man who has own his wild oats."

HUMOR OF THE DAY. When the office seeks the man, he seldom compels it to search.—Pack. The man that sips from Fortune's cup May, in himself, be small; His greatness lies in picking up The ideas fools let fall. —Truth.

An inability to make a long story short detracts much from some people's popularity.—Pack. "How beautifully it pumps!" said the professional interviewer, gazing admiringly at the mosquito.—Judge. He told her he had lost his heart, As he gazed in her lovely eyes; But, alas! the cruel maid answered: "Why don't you advertise?" —Dial-Date.

Lord Nocont (proudly)—"I can trace my descent from William the Conqueror." Cynicus—"You have been a long time on the downward path."—Truth. Cuzco—"Well, Johnny, how do you like your new teacher?" Johnny—"Not much. She doesn't know anything. To-day she asked me who discovered America."—Brooklyn Life.

"Now, Eleanor, you weigh 130 pounds and the weight gauge on the hammock registers 300 pounds. Where did that other 170 pounds come from?" "From—N—new York, I think."—Life. "I see the Jacksons have put screens up around their piazza." "Yes, and I have my opinion of people who are so stingy that they won't even let flies sit on their porch."—Chicago Record.

"Make hay while the sun shines" Is advice often needed. "Why don't you advertise while the moon shines" Is oftener heeded. —Washington Star.

Freshly—"Well, Professor, I suppose you are devoting all your time nowadays experimenting with X-rays." The Professor—"No, my son, I have many outside interests."—Brooklyn Life.

"Oh, would you mind doing me a favor?" "With pleasure. What is it?" "Kindly remove that costly mantle out of your window." "Why, pray?" "I shall be passing your shop with my wife in a few minutes."—Wegweiser.

I thought her mine—my rival watched Us ride away, then he Went straight and bought a tandem, and Of course that settled me.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Young Lightyears—"How long does a man have to study if he wants to be a good lawyer?" Lawyer Sharp—"Why do you ask that question?" "Because I am thinking of studying law myself." "Five hundred years."—Chicago Tribune.

A little four-year-old occupied an upper berth in the sleeping car. Awakening once in the middle of the night his mother asked him if he knew where he was. "Tourse I do," he replied. "I'm in the top drawer."—Youth's Companion.

Mrs. Casey—"Harrison's daughter is turnin' out for a medium. She do be hearin' voices in the upper air, they tell me." Casey—"I hear them every day, meself. Sometimes they yell 'mortal sin' and sometimes 'brick.'"—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Mr. Figg—"Young man, what sort of mischief have you been into?" Tommy—"Ain't been in none." Mr. Figg—"Oh, yes, you have. Didn't your mother just tell me that you were getting to be just like me in your ways?"—Indianapolis Journal.

The Teacher—"Now, an altruist is one who is willing to subjugate his own interest to the interest of his fellow-man. Does any little boy here understand what an altruist is?" The Kid—"Yes'm. An altruist is a feller that makes a sacrifice hit."—Indianapolis Journal.

Care of the Eyes. Do not poutice an eye under any circumstances whatever. Biding a wet application over an eye for several hours must damage that eye, the assertions of those professing to have personal experience in this to the contrary notwithstanding. The failure to aggravate an existing trouble by binding a moist application over it, is regarded as one of the most culpable errors in remedial medicine to remain for an entire night, can only be explained by the supposition that a guardian angel has watched over that misguided case, and has displaced the poultice before it had got in its fine work. All oculists condemn the poultice absolutely, in every shape and in every form. Tea leaves, bread and milk, raw oysters, scraped beef, scraped raw turnip and raw potato, and the molley of disgusting domestic remedies popularly recommended are innumerable, and all capable of producing irreparable damage to the integrity of the tissues of the visual organ.

Antiquity of Mosaic Floors. Mosaic floors, laid with small pieces of different colored, solid stone or in regular patterns, were first seen in the Egyptian 2300 B. C. In Babylon floors of this kind dated from 1100 B. C.